

**COMPOSITIONS FOR ORAL DELIVERY**  
**OF NUTRIENTS AND PHARMACEUTICALS**

**ABSTRACT**

5           The present invention provides novel compositions and methods for  
protecting and promoting cell growth and restoring physiological structure and  
function to mucosal tissue of the body, especially mucosa in the gastrointestinal  
tract. The composition can be used as a pharmaceutical or nutraceutical to treat a  
gastrointestinal disorder or to promote general health of an animal, preferably a  
10 human. The composition is in an oral dosage form and comprises edible oil  
homogenized with a sterol compound at a concentration of at least 0.5% by weight  
and edible wax at a concentration ranging from 3 % to 30% by weight. The  
composition can also be used to deliver other active ingredients to the  
gastrointestinal tract for treating various diseases.